

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the abstract in its entirety as follows:

The invention discloses simulation of a process of discrete events or tasks having a plurality of available resources associated therewith ~~is presented~~. A database stores a plurality of models, each including a plurality of one or more entity, task, and resource parameter, and dependencies and relationships. A model application communicates with the database and is configured to receive commands from a user, to retrieve one of the plurality of models and the corresponding plurality of one or more entity, task, and resource parameter in response to a user command, to receive input data corresponding to ~~attributes of~~ one or more entity, task, and resource parameter from a business database system, and to generate a simulation model based on the ~~selected~~ business database system and the input data. An optimizing application ~~communications in communication~~ with the model application and is configured to receive commands from a user, to select ~~at least one or more~~ entity, task, and resource parameter of the simulation model with respect to an objective function, to define bounds of the ~~at least one or more~~ entity, task, and resource parameter selected, to generate values for the objective function based on the ~~at least one or more~~ of the entity, task, and resource parameter selected, and to generate financial performance data based on the values generated for the objective function. A server performs a simulation of the process by processing the simulation model and generates an output data file containing output data representative thereof. The objective function ~~comprising~~ comprises a combination of system financial performance measures (e.g., operational margin) and process performance measures (e.g., cycle time, throughput, utilization).

Please replace paragraph [0078] in its entirety as follows:

[0078] The Network 186 in Fig. 6 can be a proprietary network or a publicly accessible network, such as the Internet. In an Internet-based system, the simulation software and modeling database may be accessible at Web sites via a Web server and Web browser software. For example, the user may have a laptop computer that provides the GUI 12. The laptop computer can also include browser software (e.g., Microsoft Internet Explorer®, Netscape Communicator®) stored in the computer's permanent memory. The user can access the other components of the system 10 via

the GUI 12, the browser software, and appropriate communication hardware (e.g., a modem and telephone line) to establish a connection to a Web server. Alternatively, various components of the system 10, such as modeling and output module 14 can also be stored in the user's laptop computer, while only the simulation application 18 and the database 16 are located remote from the user and the user's GUI. Still further, other components (e.g., other databases 169 69) can be located at other sites that are remote from both the GUI and the database.